

SOCIALIST GOES TO CONGRESS FROM NEW YORK CITY

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AMERICAN SOCIALIST

It is not too much to say that the hour and many of the world's greatest movements in the world rests at the moment upon the shoulders of the American Socialist. God grant they may keep their heads where others have lost theirs.—shaw, Boston, Mass., U.S.A.

VOL. I. No. 16 CHICAGO, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1914

Meyer London Is Victor By 1,000 On The 'East Side'

Meyer London, the brilliant young Socialist attorney, who has fought valiantly in the cause of the workers of New York City, was elected to congress by a vote of 1,000 to 900. The news of his victory was received with great enthusiasm by the Socialist Party of New York City. Meyer London is a native-born American, and has been active in the Socialist movement since his early days. He is a brilliant lawyer, and has been successful in many cases. His election to congress is a great victory for the Socialist Party in New York City.

REACTION EVERYWHERE BACK IN THE SADDLE SOCIALIST PARTY THE ONLY HOPE HENCEFORTH

ON THE WHOLE the results of the present campaign are good. The Socialist Party comes out of the battle stronger and better than ever. It is not alone in the election successes but in others we have gained. Averaging the results we may fairly claim that the steady, inevitable advance which always characterizes the socialist movement is again in evidence. It is not alone in the election success the Socialist Party makes progress. Elements enter and that particularly in case of a minority party which is without a daily press, fighting for position and beset not only with clever and powerful majority parties, but also with a reform party that offers at least a promise of success for radical action outside the Socialist party.

ELECTION GAINS. Glancing at the election results the Socialist Party is not without its laurels. As we go to press word comes of the election of Meyer London, of the 12th New York district to the United States Congress. This is the second socialist elected to congress in America and shows that the party stands close to the line of victory in New York as well as in Wisconsin and elsewhere. The election of London to Congress partly atones for the failure to land Berger

and Gaylord in the Milwaukee districts, while the nearness of their victory gives reason for greater hopes for the next congressional battle. In Pennsylvania, the re-election of James H. Maurer to the State Legislature indicates that success is coming back to the party in the legislative field there. It is too early to report results in other states except in Wisconsin and Illinois. In Wisconsin the socialists are reported to have carried the county, electing the sheriff, district attorney and others. As usual a strong group of representatives are elected to the state legislature. In Illinois the party re-elects Madsen and Mason to the legislature, but loses Stedman and Harris. While the loss of the two latter is to be regretted, yet in view of the loss of the Chicago daily paper two years ago, the consequent disheartenment of the movement and the terrific landslide back to the democratic and republican parties, the holding of two seats in the state legislature is regarded as an encouraging result. Returns from other states are slow in coming in, but it is believed that the party is either holding its own or making steady gains.

RE-ACTIONARIES IN THE SADDLE. But election returns after all, are only the driftwood on the tides of national affairs. There are deeper meanings to the events of this campaign.

A hasty survey of the field shows this one overshadowing result of the election: Reaction everywhere is back in the saddle. Reform radicalism is everywhere beaten down. Nothing is left for the people now but socialism. Joe Cannon goes back to congress from Illinois. Penrose of Pennsylvania wins over Pinchot by over 200,000. Governor Ferris of Michigan, whose attitude towards the miners in their strike in the Calumet district was all the reactionaries and mine owners could desire, is re-elected. And Geo. A. Carlson, republican, Rockefeller candidate, goes into the governor's chair in Colorado. And, strangely enough, on the very day that the working people were casting their ballots for democratic candidates in many sections, the democratic president, Woodrow Wilson, was calling out the federal troops at Fort Sheridan, ordering them to Arkansas to suppress a strike of the miners at Bache-Denman. This is the first time the federal troops have been called out against the working class since 1894, when president Cleveland called the troops to Chicago.

RADICAL REFORMERS ANNIHILATED. Another significant feature of the election is the complete elimination of the Progressives. Many of the Progressive candidates were men of brilliant talents and national reputations. But the landslide mowed them

down just the same. In Illinois Raymond Robins, who felt certain of election to the United States Senate, ran third. Albert J. Beveridge, of Indiana, Pinchot of Pennsylvania, Murdock of Kansas, all went down to defeat. Everywhere, (except in California) the Progressive party seems to have been a bad third. New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Indiana, Illinois, all tell the same story, while Wisconsin, which is the home of the original progressive movement, has witnessed the almost complete elimination of the La Follette progressive forces. Thus the radical reform movement, represented by the Progressive party, seems to have utterly failed. The reactionary forces have weathered the storm of the spasmodic outburst of two years ago and are everywhere crawling back into power.

What are the people to do now? What remains? Socialism and the Socialist Party remain. Its program is as clear, logical, rational and constructive as ever. Its membership is slowly but steadily growing. And its voting constituency is withstanding the shock of every imaginable sort of attack, strategy and landslide, holding its lines intact across the nation and for the most part making steady, sure gains. The field is clearing for the final fight between plutocracy and the people, — between the many and the few, — between capitalism and socialism. The future is ours!

Elect Maurer To The Legislature In Pennsylvania

James H. Maurer, Socialist Party national executive committee member and President of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, has been elected to the Pennsylvania state legislature according to a telegram received from Charles A. Maurer, editor of the Reading (Pa.) Labor Advocate. Maurer was elected to the state legislature from Reading in 1910 but was defeated in 1912. WIN VICTORIES IN MINNESOTA AND MASSACHUSETTS. Charles H. Morrill has been elected to serve his sixth term in the Massachusetts state legislature by the workers of the shoe manufacturing city of Haverhill. D. O. David has been elected to the Minnesota state legislature from the 32nd (Minneapolis) district. Albert Bustin and C. F. Knight have been elected aldermen in the sixth and twelfth Minneapolis wards making a total of four. Thomas Van Lear is making a close run for congress in the fifth congressional district. NELSON AND KABEL ELECTED BY MILWAUKEE SOCIALISTS. Edmund T. Meins was elected Sheriff of Milwaukee County, Wis. and Winifred O. Kabel was elected District Attorney after a victorious contested struggle in which the parties need every influence, both sinister and otherwise, to defeat them. Victor L. Berger, Candidate for Congress, was defeated by less than a thousand votes. Winifred O. Kabel was also running for Congress, failed of election by a very narrow margin.

Red Flag Is Crime In Massachusetts

Massachusetts has outlawed the Red Flag. The final edict against it has been written and handed down by the state supreme court. This is one of the results of the nation-wide campaign against the Red Flag conducted by anti-socialists immediately following the 1913 national campaign. These same anti-socialists will no doubt be back in the state legislatures this winter where they will be met, however, by an increased number of Socialists. The story of the war against the Red Flag in Massachusetts is told by the New England Socialist, organ of the Socialists of the New England states, as follows. Here is the story. John Karvonen, the Finnish comrade who was arrested during a parade on November 13, 1913, for carrying a red flag and was found guilty in the Worcester Superior Court, has had his "guilt" confirmed by the Massachusetts Supreme Court. The decision is as follows: "If the flag is of the forbidden color in its essential and dominating characteristics, then the mere circumstance that it bears also an inscription or device of another color is not enough to prevent it being a red flag. That this flag happens to be the usual banner of a society associated with a political party is no defense. The words of the statute are sweeping and make no exception in favor of political parties, social organizations, secret societies or benevolent or other associations. The statute as thus construed does not violate any rights protected by either the state or federal constitution. Under both these instruments the liberty of the citizen is guaranteed, but the liberty thus secured does not mean the unrestricted license of an unbridled will. Constitutional freedom means liberty regulated by law. The burden of folly, however, must not be laid upon the Supreme Court. They interpreted the law and no doubt their interpretation is good for the sort of brains in the legislature that framed up a law that was so evidently aimed at Socialism. Colors do not cause revolutions. Learned (?) legal lights of Beacon Hill. It is oppression and suppression of which your "red flag" law is merely a minor, but indicative, symptom. When the brave Irish revolutionists were forbidden to wear the dear old green, was it because green is an exciting color? No! It was because green stood for an ideal of liberty. Even so is the red flag today persecuted. Not a man or woman with red blood and common sense but what can see that the "red flag" law is suppression in its most elementary form.

October Membership Shows New Increase

While the election returns were coming in the monthly membership report of the Socialist Party was completed showing another encouraging increase for October. This in spite of the fact that all interest during the month was centered on the campaign. This starts the big winter campaign for more members and a bigger party. The report shows that the actual paid membership for August, September and October, giving the average for the three months in the last column. To this must be added the exempt membership, these members being on a par with dues paying members in all respects, but on account of unemployment or sickness, they are unable to pay dues. Stars will be noticed opposite some of the states; these stars indicate that such states show an increase in the average membership for the past two months. There are nine such states, twenty-three states showing increases for the month.

Ryan Walker Joins Staff Of The American Socialist

Ryan Walker, the most famous of Socialist cartoonists, creator of "Henry Dubb", has joined the staff of THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST. Walker will not only draw pictures for this paper but is going out on a lecture tour under the auspices of THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST. Ryan Walker has no equal as an entertainer. He draws pictures while he talks and it is hard to tell which is the more interesting, the stories he tells or the pictures he draws. While his lectures are highly amusing, they are full of hard facts and the soundest common sense. Walker started to draw for THE APPEAL TO REASON, well known Socialist weekly, back in the days when that paper was in the beginning of its existence. His pictures soon attracted attention among Socialists as well as non-Socialists throughout the United States. He became especially famous through his full page cartoons in THE COMMING NATION. Walker will start out on the lecture platform about the middle of January, 1915. He will tour all of the United States, beginning in the Atlantic and Southern states. Locals who wish to engage Walker or should communicate at once with the American Socialist League, Department. The terms have been made especially low, so as to enable as many locals as possible to take advantage of the Walker lecture.

Civil Service Heads Deliver New Blow At Free Political Activity

The campaign of The American Socialist in behalf of the politically enslaved federal civil service employees is attracting nation-wide attention. Non-Socialists write in and urge that the campaign be continued. One of our correspondents sends in a clipping from The Springfield (Mass.) Republican, Oct. 29, 1914, which shows how drastic the rulings of the United States Civil Service Commission really are. Our correspondent calls it, "Another stab at political action." The "stab" is as follows: "According to notices posted at the United States shops in this city, no employees will be allowed to serve as precinct officers on election day. This ruling discontinues a practice that has been in effect for years and closes the doors entirely against public service employment outside of their occupations. When the notices were posted last week the matter was taken up with the United States civil-service commission by Congressman Frederick H. Gillett, who pointed out that the rules had not been enforced against army employees at previous elections. The army employees sought the ruling on the ground that the work of an election official was nonpartisan and was outside the intent of the rules of the civil service. "Mr. Gillett took the matter up with the civil-service commission Tuesday and yesterday received a reply from the civil-service board. Mr. Gillett telegraphed the civil-service commission as follows: 'Civil service rules posted at United States army lead some machinists there. Here is what one of the victims writes: "I read with great interest your article in the Oct. 25th number on crushing political activity among civil service employees, to which body I belong. I wish to thank your paper for said article and for the campaign which you have initiated." The Dayton (Ohio) Herald, under the heading, "Socialists Will Protest Ruling," says that the Dayton Socialists are on the line fighting the suppression of political activity in the federal civil service. Washington (Pa.) Observer.—England is offering the biggest practical demonstration of the workability of many of the Socialist theories that has ever been adduced." AMERICAN SOCIALIST, 3 months—10c.

Socialist "Internationale" Soon To Meet At Hague

That there are now greater and brighter prospects of rallying the forces of International Socialism in the struggle for world peace is seen in a cablegram just received announcing that the International Socialist Bureau has been transferred temporarily from Brussels to The Hague, Holland. The cable was received by Walker Lateral, national secretary of The American Socialist Party, and came from H. Van Kol, one of the members of the International Socialist Bureau from Holland. The International Socialist Bureau has been located for years at Brussels, Belgium. This work of the bureau was handicapped for the time being by the capture of the Belgium capital by the German army. This resulted in the failure to call a meeting of the delegates to the international bureau. The Socialists in the neutral countries began an agitation to have the bureau removed to Holland and the cable from Van Kol would indicate that this has now been accomplished. According to information received from European Socialists the first step will be to call a conference of Socialists of neutral European countries, when the holding of an international congress will be discussed. Probably the most enthusiastic response to the American Socialist effort to restore the Socialist "Internationale" has come from Portugal, from Europe comes from Portugal, from the official Portuguese Socialist organ, and delegate to the international bureau. He is in favor of holding the proposed international Socialist Peace Congress immediately at Washington. He writes: "By your invitation to a peace congress and your appeal to Socialists of all countries, you merit the sympathy of all comrades faithful to the peace principles of the Socialist movement. Votes For Washington: "In my capacity as editor of 'The Voice of the People,' organ of the Socialist Party of Portugal, and in my capacity as delegate to the International Socialist Bureau, I salute you with fervor and give my vote for Washington as the place to hold the peace congress. "Owing to the fact that practically all countries are engaged in the horrible war it is impossible to hold the congress in Europe. At the same time if it is not possible to hold the congress at Washington, I believe with you, that it should be held either at The Hague or Copenhagen. "In this difficult hour it is the duty of all militants to unite their energies to bring an end to the most horrible of all wars. "This is my opinion which is also the opinion of all Portuguese Socialists. I have just addressed your appeal to the executive committee of the party and to the other delegates to the bureau. I do not deceive myself when I assure you that the entire Socialist Party of Portugal will receive your appeal with enthusiasm and will send two delegates to your country." AMERICAN SOCIALIST, 3 months—10c.

Here Is Story Of Fight For Food

Here is the story of the People's Monster Petition! We repeat it in brief for the benefit of our new readers. We review it again for our old readers who may have put it aside temporarily while waiting the congressional campaign. Now that the campaign is over the work of pushing the People's Monster Petition offers itself as the biggest work of the hour and of the next few weeks. Nations Are Aroused. Immediately following the outbreak of the war in Europe the people of the nation were aroused by the sudden and unwarranted increase in the cost of food stuffs. The food barons were speculating in the necessities of life. Out in California this form of robbery was resented. J. Stitt Wilson, member of the Socialist Party executive committee, was elected to wide protest. In hundreds of meetings thousands of signatures were secured for the People's Monster Petition. Wilson urged that the fight be taken up nationally by the Socialist Party. This was ordered done. The Socialist Party national executive committee ordered that a national campaign be conducted for the circulation of a People's Monster Petition, demanding the establishment of Food Supply Depots and other facilities necessary in order to maintain a just market for the sale of the necessities of life, direct to the people. Work With Enthusiasm. The work of circulating this petition throughout the nation was taken up in the hands of Winnie E. Brantetter, head of the Women's Department of the National Socialist Party. Since the inauguration of this movement non-political organizations, suffrage leagues, labor unions and Socialist locals have taken hold of the proposition with enthusiasm. Each day thousands of new signatures are received by this office and hundreds of petition blanks are forwarded to individuals and organizations eager to circulate them. All Socialist locals, union organizations and such other Clubs as we have been able to reach have been circulated with letters and petitions. "STARVE THE WAR AND FEED AMERICA" was the slogan adopted by the National Party for the Petition work. ONE MILLION SIGNATURES BY CHRISTMAS IS the goal we have set. Present indications are that this number will be greatly exceeded. Various non-Socialist newspapers throughout the country are running press notices and including the Newpaper Enterprise Association, which supplies copy for the Scripps-McRae, and other so-called independent papers, have given this move considerable publicity. Socialist papers in all languages are running press notices and copies of the Petition reported.

Elect Two Socialist To The Illinois Legislature

Despite the great Democratic landslide in Chicago the Socialists of the northwest section of the state succeeded in re-electing their two representatives to the Illinois legislature and in rolling up a big vote for the rest of the Socialist ticket. The two men elected were Joseph M. Mason, a molder and Christian M. Madsen, a painter. Mason received 14,350 votes, beating the Progressive candidate by almost 3,000 votes. Madsen secured 3,500 votes, defeating the Progressive by 2,600 votes. The Chicago newspapers carried on a campaign of alliance against the Socialists, yet they ran up a vote of 7,952 for Thompson for governor, leading the progressives by 1,500 votes. While it was generally expected that Socialists would elect their third man to the legislature in this district, H. W. Harris, and speed Otto Christensen to the Illinois Senate, they are not dismayed by their failure to secure these elected. This campaign fall resulted in the building up of a strong working organization, many new members being added to the Party. With the further perfection of this organization, Socialists are expecting it that the campaign for the next year will be a law making battle of Chicago and Illinois. Seymour Stedman was only defeated for the state legislature in the south by the narrow margin of 300.

DUES-PAYING MEMBERSHIP.

	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Av'g.
Ala.	760	800	790	783
Ark.	310	320	310	313
Cal.	720	820	780	813
Col.	4,350	4,520	4,380	4,417
Conn.	720	740	730	731
D.C.	1,820	1,970	1,820	1,890
Fla.	100	100	100	100
Ill.	900	900	900	900
Ind.	100	100	100	100
Iowa	820	820	820	820
Kan.	8,340	8,330	8,330	8,333
La.	1,020	930	940	963
Mass.	1,320	1,320	1,320	1,320
Mich.	300	300	300	300
Minn.	300	300	300	300
Mo.	340	320	320	327
N.H.	8,230	8,200	8,240	8,223
N.J.	2,440	2,510	2,570	2,573
N.Y.	3,410	3,580	3,480	3,477
Ohio	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
Okla.	1,220	1,230	1,230	1,230
Penn.	1,220	1,230	1,230	1,230
R.I.	1,000	90	90	370
S.C.	810	820	820	817
Tenn.	4,090	3,470	3,480	3,683
Tex.	8,030	8,040	8,110	8,043
Va.	900	1,010	1,000	1,100
W.Va.	3,370	3,510	3,510	3,543
Wis.	810	820	820	817
Wyo.	720	720	720	720
Unk.	400	400	400	400
Total	77,950	82,670	82,700	81,450
Grand Total	77,950	82,670	82,700	81,450

No. 105 If No. 105 appears on your address book, your subscription expires next week. Do not fail to renew.

California State Federation of Labor unanimously endorsed the Socialist party amendment providing for a legal eight-hour day in all branches of industry in that State. The Merchants and Manufacturers Association has been making a fierce fight against the eight-hour measure, which was voted on last Tuesday. Socialists Win Again.—Socialists have won a complete victory in the long fight for free speech in Muskogee, Okla. Success came when Judge C. P. DeGraffenreid freed four Socialists arrested for speaking on the streets.

PREPARE NOW FOR 1916! You want to see THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST grow. You want it to reach the ears and hearts of many thousands. You have worked faithfully for some time and have doubled the circulation in a little over two months. After election, things are bound to be a little slow; BESIDES NEVER-AL THOUSAND OF OUR THREE MONTHS' SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE COMING OFF. We know that it would be cause of regret to all of you to see the circulation slump, which however, is bound to happen unless quick and vigorous action be taken. We are going to RENEW OUR OFFER OF THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST FOR THREE MONTHS FOR TEN CENTS. HENCEFORTH THIS WILL BE A STANDING OFFER. This offer ought to enable you to put thousands of subscribers on THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST list. We don't know of any better-kept or more effective propaganda. Almost anyone will give you ten cents for a trial subscription to the American Socialist. The American Socialist staff-and-Yvonne Ram will be the root. PREPARE NOW FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF 1916. NEARLY EVERY THREE MONTHS' SUBSCRIPTION WILL MAKE A SOCIALIST VOTER. AMERICAN SOCIALIST, 3 months—10c.

Wilkes-Barre, (Pa.) Record.—"When the war broke out, the Socialists again consistently engaged in their former hostile campaign. The more recruits they gain in that movement the more will government officials hesitate about plunging nations into war."

An Australian trench digger, who was shot in the abdomen by a German bullet, refuses to leave the trench. He said it was too good to have something in his stomach.

AMERICAN SOCIALIST, 3 months—10c.

OUR TRIAL OFFER: THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST THREE MONTHS FOR TEN CENTS!

100,000 SUBS

By January 1st, 1915

Last Week 44,581
Off 616
Net 43,965
App-Subs 44,581
Gain 879

Will, we made it! The hundred thousand subscribers mark has been reached. It is a hard task, but it is a task that is being accomplished. The American Socialist is a paper that is being read by a large number of people. It is a paper that is being read by a large number of people. It is a paper that is being read by a large number of people.

There are many things connected with the running of a working-class paper that the average subscriber has little idea about. Thus for example, last week, we had in the neighborhood of 1,000 changes of address. This means that we have nearly 100,000 subscribers. It gives you an idea how working people are compelled to move around, for it is hardly likely that the average workingman goes to the expense of moving merely for the fun of it. It took our employees nearly two days to adjust these changes.

ROLL OF HONOR

One Glan, Victor, Cal., writes that he has sold 33 AMERICAN SOCIALIST subscription cards this week.

The Krensha Socialists, Chicago, Ill., send in a list of 17 this week. "I am going to be for more 'subs' all the time. The American Socialist is the best paper in America." B. F. Jackson, Muldrow, Okla. G. C. Porter, Merrill, Neb., comes in with a list of 29.

From Walberry, Kans., comes a list of 14 names from Julian Bernhardt. He will do all I can for the American Socialist writes Chas. A. Byrd, McCook, Minn.

L. E. Gossin, Arnold, Pa., hands us a lucky 13 list this week.

"Long live the American Socialist," enthusiastically writes Victor Mackey, Conington, Mich.

Vincent Baker, Chicago, Ill., says, "I like the paper and wish to thank the author. That is my object of finding out who this kind person is." Here is an idea comrades, why not send the American Socialist to some of the people who would thank you for it.

Please remember seven cards at the \$1.50 rate are sold at reduction and therefore no premium is offered for an order of this kind.

For a full list of 12 subscribers at 25 cents each Your choice of the following:

The 1914 Campaign Book.
The Human Slaughter-House.
The Carpenter and the Rich Man.
War What For?

The following headers have taken advantage of the above offer:

T. F. Lockwood, Cleveland, Ohio.
James Mussetter, Los Angeles, Cal.
J. E. Van Wye, Niles, Ohio.
Paul Praggale, New Kensington, Pa.

F. B. Borge, Chicago, sends in a list of 10.

"The American Socialist is simply great. It is as clean and forceful as anything I ever read." J. E. Van Wye, Niles, Ohio.

It is a pleasure to note that the American Socialist is improving greatly and I believe it to be the best Socialist newspaper in the country. Keep it up. Nathan Marks, Philadelphia, Pa.

"Can't be beat," writes H. A. Schultz, of Tushingham, Ohio. Ten names are on the list from his town.

Joe Glass, Painesville, N. J., sends in a list of nine. N. J. Falkner, Grand Forks, N. D., does likewise.

"I think it is a fine paper and should be read by every socialist." Harry Hodge, Northport, Wash.

For a list of eight subscribers at 25 cents each (Your choice of the following):

War What For! (Kirkpatrick)
Business the Heart of the Nation (Russell)

The following comrades have taken advantage of this offer:

Henry R. Miller, Painesville, Ohio.
Frank A. Pellegrini, Chicago, Ill.
Joe Glass, Painesville, N. J.
Chas. D. Raymer, Seattle, Wash.
List of seven have been received from H. L. Keler, Elberta, Mich., and H. L. Galt, Cleveland, Ohio. C. A. Hutehik, Delhi, N. Y., sends in the names of six farmers.

STORY OF 51 DEAD; LAW NOT ENFORCED

By ADOLPH GERMER
Vice-President Illinois Mine Workers

Shrouded in sorrow are the homes of the miners in Royals, Ill., where 51 lives were snuffed out in a coal-mining disaster.

When the victims of this catastrophe left home on the morning of Oct. 27, little did they dream that death was so near; they had no thought of never seeing their loved ones again. But such is the miners' fate.

Fifty-one dead and scores wounded is the price paid because the laws had not been properly enforced.

About four weeks ago an explosion occurred in the same mine though no one was fatally injured. The men made complaint about the ventilation, even going so far as writing to the County Mine Inspector asking that he come to make an examination of the mine but without avail, he explaining that orders must come from the State Mine Inspector before he could comply with the request of the men.

No Order Came.

Apparently no order came, perhaps because the matter was not brought to the attention of the State Inspector. Be that as it may, the inspection was not made.

On the morning of Oct. 27, as usual, the miners began to descend into the mine at seven o'clock. Some were still around the bottom while others had proceeded to their working places. All of a sudden a shock was felt and dust and smoke filled the openings.

Bad and touching stories are told by some of the survivors whose brothers, partners or friends were killed beside them. It was about 7:20 that Jack Miller, the Local Miners' Union President, and a number of others were at the shaft bottom. W. D. Williams was beside Miller when they were struck as if by a cyclone and all that Miller can remember are the last words of Williams: "By God Jack, what has happened?" At this Miller was overcome and did not regain consciousness until that afternoon.

Story of Two Brothers.

Another story was that of two brothers, who with several other miners were on their way to their work. When the force of the explosion struck them they were in total darkness while men were groaning all around. Finally one of them, a foreman miner, though badly bruised succeeded in striking a match and one of the brothers saw the light. They dug and a few feet away. Others told similar stories.

The bodies were charred and blistered; some were burned beyond recognition. It was a ghastly sight, one that I shall remember to the end of my life.

There are conflicting stories as to the cause of the explosion. The County Mine Inspector is quoted as having said that it was caused by miners carelessly going into a place that contained gas. However, before the coroner's jury he testified that if the proper ventilation had been perfect the danger would have been obviated and there would have been no possibility of the catastrophe.

Widows and Orphans.

Be that as it may, the law provides in substance that where danger is found to exist in any place by the mine examiner the "fire check" of the man or men working in such place must be withdrawn and the place not permitted to go in until the danger is removed and the place made safe.

That was not done in this case. It had been done, those lives would not have been spared, women would not have been widowed and children orphaned. Again had the ventilation been perfect the danger would have been obviated and there would have been no possibility of the catastrophe.

AMERICAN SOCIALIST, 3 months—10c.

In Europe's Human House Of Slaughter

By SHAW DESMOND
British Socialist Writer

I have at least one case in my records where wounded men were thrown alive into the flames of a burning house. Looking down my nose, and those only made from authenticated cases, I see only drunken orgies of lust and blood in which women are locked in rooms after being separated from their husbands and fathers and maddened soldiers let loose upon them; the burning of dead and rotting bodies of wounded men in a church which, though flying the Red Cross, was deliberately bombed; headless assaults upon children; the mutilation of the dead on the field of battle; and through it all the squalor of the open because we couldn't face the stench.

Not would you understand if you were there to see these things. I say to you that this war has made Europe as bestial as the savages of the natural occurrence of every day.

The Arizona State Federation of Labor at its recent convention passed resolutions against war introduced by H. W. Kane, editor of the Arizona Socialist Union.

The New York Public Library reports George R. Kirkpatrick's "War What For?" as among the books most in demand.

YOUR LOCAL NEXT!

Among the new locals to come in on the plan of sending the American Socialist to new party members are Flashing, Ohio, and Bedford, Wis.

AMERICAN SOCIALIST, 3 months—10c.

American "Neutrality" Is Standing On Weak Legs

By VICTOR L. BERGER

The newspapers told us that the "Hilsholms" carried over to England hundreds of thousands of rounds of ammunition. France has almost orders in this country for these rounds.

When we read of these rounds, we are reminded of the fact that the American people are not yet ready to stand up for their own rights.

We also read of enormous orders of steel, copper, barbed wire and kindred American products going to the Entente, I. e., to England and France.

According to official reports, the exportation of canned beef from America jumped from \$24,000 pounds in September, 1913, to \$28,532 last month. More than 7,267,400 pounds of fresh meat were shipped abroad last month, compared with \$24,108 in September, 1913. The Entente, I. e., England and France, got it.

Not in this.

The exportation of grain exports was so marked. Barley sales jumped from \$11,444 bales in September, 1913, to \$7,913,294 bales last month—or over 1,000 per cent.

It all went to the Entente.

Export of oats grew from \$18,929 in September, 1913, to 10,790,165 in September, 1914.

Wheat jumped from 11,711,108 in September, 1913, to 25,900,100 in September, 1914, while after exports increased from 1,494,995 pounds to 16,442,417 in the corresponding month. It all went to England and France.

And last week we read that the English refused to permit the import of a little grain from Holland into Belgium, although Germany offered to guarantee that such grain would be used for feeding Belgian civilians only.

Trade between America and Germany remained at a standstill—September being the last month that the Great Britain was well maintained reports our department of commerce.

And that is called "neutrality."

Well, it is "business!"

To fully appreciate the danger of it all, we must also consider the following:

About 90 per cent of our big capitalists and 90 per cent of the daily papers of this country are violently pro-English.

Above all it is a fact that American and English capitalism has been in partnership for the last 50 years and the commercial fortunes of the two countries are closely connected.

American neutrality stands on weak legs indeed. Americans should, therefore, be careful. A war comes like a thief over night.

INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

CARL D. THOMPSON, Director.

Purpose.—To collect, classify and make available for the membership of the Socialist Party and other workers and reformers all economic, political and social information. To assist workers and reformers in their efforts to bring about the overthrow of the capitalist system.

All correspondence to Socialist Party Information Department, 303 W. Madison Street, Chicago.

PROFITS OF WATER PLANT MAY BE USED IN OTHER UTILITIES.

Questions: The city of Sheboygan, Wis., is governed by a special charter. The city owns the water plant, and the charter provides that the proceeds from this plant must not be used for any other purpose than for the maintenance of the plant, improvements, extension, etc.

Then, to my knowledge, the state public utility law covers this same point, namely, that a city-owned water plant must be operated for service only and not for profit to be used in other departments of the city government.

One of the Republican aldermen introduced a resolution some time ago, demanding a transfer of the surplus of \$71,000, which the city water commission holds at one of its local banks, to be used for a city hall building fund. I want to know whether it is legal to transfer this money, and whether the common council can order such a transfer independently. I contend that if the general fund forwarded \$71,000 to the water plant, then it would not require a resolution to transfer this money to the city hall fund, but that the water commission could reimburse the general fund to the amount of \$71,000.

One might also think that if the water plant did not receive this alleged loan, then the water rates should be cut or lowered and the surplus eliminated entirely.

Am I right? A. C. K.

Answer (by Daniel W. Hoan, City Attorney of Milwaukee): Your conclusion that the public utility law requires that a water plant must be operated for service only, not for profit, might be correct, were it not for the fact that a subsequent enactment of the Legislature, which was passed by the Legislature, whether or not, however, a plant should make profit under a public utility law is involved in our Milwaukee water case. Professor John R. Commons has been preparing a bill, which I state is to be introduced to the Railroad Commission of Wisconsin at any time they call a hearing, affirming our right to run a plant for profit over the cost of the maintenance and operation. Be that as it may, however, this is a separate question.

American Workers Do Not Even Touch The Fringes Of Their Possibilities

By WINFIELD R. GAYLORD

(Note.—Winfield R. Gaylord, chairman of the Committee on Co-operation of the Socialist Party makes this report on a question that is of great importance to the entire working class movement in this country.)

The Wisconsin co-operative law declares that after the passage of that law no person or corporation shall use the word "co-operation" unless they comply with the provisions of the law. The law is intended to protect the organization, control and management of the business and the distribution of profits.

That was an eminently satisfactory provision, to all friends of the co-operative movement, and efforts.

But the writer has been wondering whether there ought not to be added another qualification, in the interest of promoting a live and growing co-operative movement, rather than a sterile one. To be sure, hybrids are useful, though sterile. But they do not serve the purpose of nature or humanity. And since we have had experience enough to show the difference between fecundity and sterility, it is applied to the co-operative movement, it is well to be at least as discriminating at least one middle-man.

Young People's Dept.

J. A. ROSS, Jr., Director
To reach the young people with the message of socialism and to help them to organize themselves in a Socialist Party.

Address all communications to Socialist Party Young People's Dept., 303 W. Madison St., Chicago.

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